

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subterranean zone penetrated by a well bore comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~preparing or~~ providing a viscous gelled treating fluid that is substantially devoid of a water insoluble gelling agent residue and that comprises ~~comprising~~ water, a hydrated gelling agent wherein the hydrated gelling agent is a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof, and the water insoluble residue therefrom, a base for raising the pH of said water so that said water insoluble residue is dissolved therein, and additional water to lower the amount of said gelling agent in said treating fluid relative to the amount of water therein and to lower the pH thereof; and

(b) introducing said viscous gelled well treating fluid ~~at least partially devoid of insoluble gelling agent residue~~ into said subterranean zone.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

14. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 12 wherein said gelling agent is a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof and modified celluloses and derivatives thereof.~~

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said gelling agent is a galactomannan selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

17. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 12 wherein said gelling agent is a modified cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose and carboxymethylcellulose.~~

18. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 12 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxyethylcellulose.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said hydrated gelling agent ~~and said insoluble residue produced therefrom~~ is present in said water in an amount in the range of from about 10 to about 2000 pounds per 1000 gallons thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said base is sodium hydroxide.

22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said base is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to raise the pH of said treating fluid to in the range of from about 10 to 13.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said ~~additional~~ water is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to lower the amount of said gelling agent therein to in the range of from about 10 to about 80 pounds per 1000 gallons of water and to lower the pH thereof to in the range of from about 2 to about 12.

24. (Currently Amended) A viscous gelled treating fluid composition comprising:
water,[[;]]

a hydrated gelling agent wherein the hydrated gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof, and ~~the water insoluble residue therefrom;~~

a base, ~~for raising the pH of said water so that said water insoluble residue is dissolved therein;~~ and

~~additional water to lower the amount of said gelling agent in said treating fluid relative to the amount of water therein and to lower the pH thereof.~~

wherein said viscous gelled treating fluid composition is substantially devoid of a water insoluble gelling agent residue.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

26. (Cancelled) ~~The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof and modified celluloses and derivatives thereof.~~

27. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is a galactomannan selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

28. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

29. (Cancelled) ~~The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is a modified cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose and carboxymethylcellulose.~~

30. (Cancelled) ~~The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxyethylcellulose.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24 wherein said hydrated gelling agent ~~and said water insoluble residue therefrom~~ is present in said treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 10 to about 2000 pounds of said gelling agent per 1000 gallons of said water.

32. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

33. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is sodium hydroxide.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to raise the pH of said treating fluid to in the range of from about 10 to 13.

35. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24 wherein said ~~additional~~ water is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to lower the amount of said gelling agent therein to in the range of from about 10 to about 80 pounds per 1000 gallons of water and to lower the pH thereof to in the range of from about 2 to about 12.